

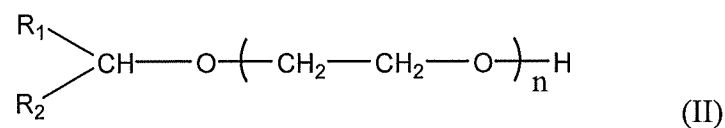
**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

What is claimed is:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled).
3. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising at least two compounds of formula (II):

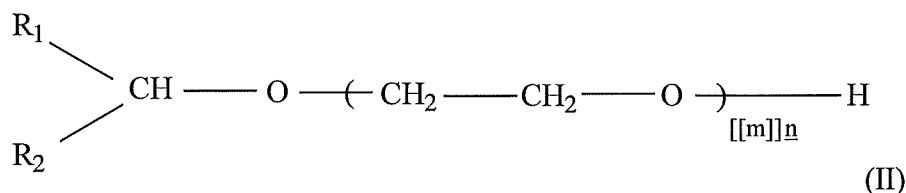


wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each independently  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, and  $n$  is an integer  $\geq 0$  and wherein the average molar value of  $n$  for the total of the compounds of formula (II) in said composition is in the range of 1 to  $[[3]]$  2.

4. (Canceled).
5. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim  $[[4]]$  3 wherein the average molar value of  $n$  is about 1.7.

6. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 3 wherein  $R_1R_2CH-$  is 4-methyl-pent-2-yl.
7. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound of formula (II) where  $n=0$  comprises less than 15% by weight of the total composition.
8. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound of formula (II) where  $n=0$  comprises less than 10% by weight of the total composition.
9. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound of formula (II) where  $n=0$  comprises less than or equal to 6.5% by weight of the total composition.
10. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the total combined weight of compounds where  $n=0$  and  $n=1$  is such that the closed-cup flash point of said composition is greater than  $65^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
11. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the total weight of compounds of formula (II) where  $n$  is greater than 4 is less than 20% of the combined total of compounds of formula (II).
12. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 3 which further comprises other additives.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a composition comprising at least two compounds of formula (II):



wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are each independently C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, and n is an integer  $\geq 0$ , and

wherein the average molar value of n for the total of the compounds of formula (II) in said composition is in the range of 1 to  $\text{[[3]]} \underline{2}$ , said method comprising:

reacting an excess of C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> secondary alcohol with ethylene oxide in the presence of a catalyst in an ethoxylation vessel to form a mixture of two or more compounds of formula (II), separating at least a portion of unreacted secondary alcohol from the mixture, and recycling the unreacted secondary alcohol back to the ethoxylation vessel.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> secondary alcohol is 4-methyl-2-pentanol.

15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 13 wherein the unreacted secondary alcohol is removed by distillation to provide a composition comprising unreacted secondary alcohol in an amount of less than 15% by weight of the total composition.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein unreacted secondary alcohol comprises less than 10% by weight of the total composition.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the unreacted secondary alcohol comprises less than or equal to 8% by weight of the total composition.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 13 comprising a distillation step to remove from the composition compounds of formula (II) wherein  $n=0$  and  $n=1$  such that the closed-cup flash point of said composition is greater than  $65^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
19. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14 wherein total weight of compounds of formula (II) where  $n$  is greater than 4 in said composition is less than 20% of the combined total of the compounds of formula (II) in the composition.
20. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein the ethylene oxide to  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_9$  secondary alcohol ratio is kept below 70 wt% in said ethoxylation vessel.
21. (Original) A method according to claim 20, wherein the ratio is kept below 10 wt%.
22. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein the catalyst is an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal base catalyst or a Lewis or Bronsted acid catalyst.
23. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein the catalyst is a Narrow Range Ethoxylation catalyst.
24. (Original) A method according to claim 22, wherein the alkali metal catalyst is potassium hydroxide.
25. (Canceled).
26. (Previously presented) A froth flotation process for the recovery of clean coal from a slurry, the process comprising adding a composition according to claim 3 to the slurry.

27. (Previously presented) A froth flotation process according to claim 26, wherein the froth flotation process is performed in a Microcel<sup>®</sup>.
28. (Previously presented) A froth flotation process according to claim 26, wherein the froth flotation process is performed in a Jameson<sup>®</sup> cell.
29. (Previously presented) A froth flotation process according to claim 26 wherein the froth flotation process is performed in an EKOF<sup>®</sup> cell.
30. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~improving~~ improving the performance of a dissolved air flotation process, the method comprising adding a composition according to claim 3 to lower the liquid surface tension of a slurry used in the process.
31. (Previously presented) A flotation process for the recovery and concentration of desirable minerals or selective removal of undesirable minerals from a slurry, the process comprising adding a composition according to claim 3 to the slurry.
32. (Previously presented) A flotation process for the recovery of sulphide minerals from a slurry, the process comprising adding a composition according to claim 3 to the slurry.
33. (Previously presented) A froth flotation process for refining mineral or coal, the process comprising adding a composition according to claim 3 to a slurry of mineral or coal.
34. (Canceled).
35. (Canceled).
36. (Canceled).